

Positive Alternatives 2016 - 17 Quarterly Update

Grantee: Birthright of Alexandria

Goal: Provide education and the necessary materials needed to allow children of low-income women to have access to a safe-sleep environment; Provide education and the necessary equipment to allow children of low-income women to be transported safely; increase community awareness; provide a comprehensive education program to pregnant and parenting women; provide necessary services to women in need.

Contact Person:

Phone and Email of Contact:

For the period:

Activity or Service	Activity or Service Description Major Work Plan Activities	Work Plan Count	Program Progress and Accomplishments Report the progress and accomplishments made this period on each activity.	Report Count
Administrative Activities	Staff: Executive Director—oversees implementation and provides guidance to grant staff, orients volunteers to programs, orients interpreters to programs, distributes crib and car seat program protocols & updates to agencies. Staff: Financial Services/Resource and Education Coordinator—assesses needs, assures proper certifications are in place, establishes written protocols,		Beginning our new emergency assistance program has involved a lot of hours. We have had staff trainings, presentations to local organizations, working with our translators, and welcoming new counties to our programs.	

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	liaisons with stores and community contacts, maintains educational materials and files, orders supplies, provides financial and other services for grant-related purposes			
Outreach	The Outreach Coordinator promotes community awareness, promotes positive pregnancy alternatives in the community, seeks out donor support, and recruits and trains volunteers. Maintains bus and bench advertisements, continuing to match the message with the audience; obtains necessary MDH approvals		We have promoted our programs at the county fair, Douglas County Hospital's breastfeeding week fair, pro-life committees, schools, and diocesan gatherings. Three new volunteers have been trained.	
Car Seat Program	Participants receive hands-on training from a Certified Car Seat Technician. Upon completion of the training they receive a certificate for an appropriate car seat from a local retailer.	18	Although we were three car seats short of our goal of 18, we did perform 7 post-evaluations. We found major safety issues with 4 out of the 7, which we were able to correct and re-teach.	15
Case Management (HeartBEATS)	Tier 1: Piggy Bank Fund Staff: Volunteers, Program Coordinator Assess client need; determine if there are available programs in the community to meet this need; provide immediate emergency	6	This program helped with many different needs. We helped a mother renew her RN license so she could return to work. We gave out several gas and grocery cards to women who were in great need. We helped with several utility bills and bus tickets.	7

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	<p>assistance when community help is not available; consider client referral to Tiers 2 or 3</p> <p>Tier 2: HUGS (Hope, Understanding, & Greater Stability) Staff: Volunteers, Program Coordinator, Steering Committee, Coaches Assess client need through an application and interview; determine if there are available programs in the community to meet this need; go over budgeting, talk about alternatives, develop a plan; submit emergency assistance request to steering committee when community help is not available; consider client referral to Tier 3</p> <p>Tier 3: Transitions (Empowerment for Long Term Success) Staff: Volunteers, Program Coordinator, Steering Committee, Coaches Assess client goals through an application and interview; foster a close partnership with client for a 3-6+ month individualized program; work on goal-setting, action plan</p>	<p>3-4</p> <p>1-2</p>	<p>If a program's accomplishment could be measured in tears of gratitude, this program would be immensely successful. We met women who were very, very stressed. We used this fund to pay rent, security deposits, car insurance, and a medical bill. Several women who were screened were able to find their own assistance and did not need our help. That is a good thing as we try to stress client responsibility.</p> <p>Our first client was from Benson County, which is a good distance away. She heard about us through her church, which is strange because we did not advertise. Public health nurses have been spreading the word.</p> <p>These five clients have been working closely with a mentor. We are fielding situations including domestic abuse, housing, transportation, language barriers, and job coaching. This one-on-one service has been extremely valuable.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5</p>

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	development, and participant accountability; if funds are needed submit plan to steering committee for approval; collaborate with community agencies and professionals to coordinate services if needed			
Crib Distribution/ Sleep Safety Education	Participants receive education from a public health nurse. Upon completion of the education, they receive a certificate for safe sleep furniture from a local retailer.	37	We served women from three new counties: Swift, Benson, and Chippewa.	36
Financial Education and Assistance	Provide immediate emergency assistance when community help is not available, go over budgeting, talk about alternatives, develop a plan; submit emergency assistance request to steering committee when community help is not available	6	I apologize, Mary—I missed this extra column. Please see above for HUGS and PIGGY BANK, which are our financial education and assistance programs.	
Interpreter Services	Participants receive services from Spanish-speaking interpreters. There will be a focus on the car seat program due to the importance of dialogue and interaction during the activity, however, all services have potential for enhancement.	1	This service has gone beyond what we expected. We are growing concerned about the treatment of our clients by processing plants, but are unsure how to address the situation. We have noticed a need in our community for better Spanish interpretive services, especially in the social services and public health systems. Non-English speakers face serious barriers.	6

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Life-Skills Education Program	Based on her interests and needs, participant selects educational topics. Advocate encourages, instructs, and assesses progress. Includes Life Coaching and Red Cross lifesaving classes. Incentives are provided for completion of sessions.	4	Coaching and CPR/1 st AID were popular.	8
Material Support	New mothers receive from OB staff or Public Health nurse a layette containing promotional material about Birthright, information, baby clothing, diapering supplies, and other items a new mother would find useful.	24	Although we have typically given most of these to the hospital, we saw an increased demand from Public Health staff this quarter (from several other counties) as well as Nurse-Family Partnerships.	50
Nutrition	Clients may receive one supplemental can of formula per month.	60	Perhaps we aimed too high with our estimate. Or perhaps the breastfeeding classes have kept this number lower than we anticipated!	46
Parenting Education	Based on her interests and needs, participant selects educational topics pertinent to improving parenting skills. Advocate encourages, instructs, and assesses progress. Incentives are provided for completion of sessions.	3	We saw several parents who were trying to become more educated so they could receive custody of their children. More fathers have shown interest as well.	7
Pregnancy Education	Based on her interests and needs, participant selects educational topics. Advocate encourages, instructs, and assesses progress. Incentives	2	We would like to try to boost these numbers.	2

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	are provided for completion of sessions.			
Provide Necessary Services to All Clients	Provide intake assessment to determine need. Provide women with information on, referral to and assistance with securing pregnancy support services. Utilize resource database to provide information and make referrals	45	This has been a very busy quarter for us. We are finding that helping women with positive alternatives to abortion includes helping them find solutions to a wide variety of challenges.	74
Provide Necessary Services Assessments Only	Staff provides clients only intake assessments, information on, referral to and assistance with securing necessary services	2-4	5 women were given assessments and intake regarding HeartBEATS, but they were ultimately able to find their own help	5
Transportation	Gas cards will be offered to women as needed to enable them to participate in the Opps & Apps program.	4	Many of these clients are traveling to us from Long Prairie and Fergus Falls. We are also seeing women from Staples and Glenwood.	31

Maternal and Child Health Initiative Task Force Strategies	No.
<i>Number of women who received car seats and car seat safety education from a PA funded program activity</i>	15

Maternal and Child Health Initiative Task Force Strategies	No.
<i>Number of women who received car seat safety education only from a PA funded program activity</i>	19
<i>Number of women who received child abuse prevention education from a PA funded program activity</i>	1
<i>Number of women who received abusive head trauma (shaken baby) prevention education from a PA funded program activity</i>	1
<i>Number of women who received a baby bed, crib, or pack-n-play and sleep safety education from a PA funded program activity</i>	36
<i>Number of women who received sleep safety education only from a PA funded program activity</i>	36

Challenges:

Comments: